

Exhibit No. 71  
 Date 3.18.11  
 Bill No. HB2

St Joseph Medical Clinic – Polson  
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 Polson MT 59860-1010  
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March 17, 2011

Senate Finance and Claims Committee

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a family nurse practitioner providing comprehensive healthcare for patients at Lake County Health Department. Even though these are "family planning" and sexually transmitted disease screening appointments, these patients receive comprehensive primary healthcare. Both men and women are served. Over 80% of the clients we have seen this past year do not have health insurance. Thus, if they did not have this clinic, they would not be able to obtain primary care or family planning services.

Unfortunately, chlamydia is very prevalent in our area with 42% of our clients, age 20-24 years of age being diagnosed. If STD screening were not available, a large number of patients will be without diagnosis and treatment. Again, these services are for both men and women.

In addition, Lake County has an almost 70% teen pregnancy rate as compared to Montana state as a whole at 50%. Unfortunately, if our family planning services are cut, our teen pregnancy rate is likely to increase even further. Abstinence and contraceptive counseling as well as having low-cost contraceptives available are imperative to the health of our communities.

As a primary care provider in private practice, I see how essential getting patients in to see a health care provider on a regular basis is. Unfortunately, our country is battling several chronic medical conditions including escalating rate of obesity, diabetes mellitus, heart disease, among others. Cutting family planning funding will only exacerbate these problems.

Please reconsider your choice to eliminate family practice services from the state of Montana. Having no access to health care will be very detrimental to our communities.

#### **Specialties**

Family Practice	Orthopedics
General Surgery	Pediatrics
OB/GYN	Urology

#### **Providers**

Rob Alfiero, PA-C	Timothy W. Carte, M.D.	Jeremy Mitchell, D.O.
Kelly Bagnell, M.D.	Rachel DePuy, M.D.	Michael Righetti, M.D.
Amanda Blea, D.O.	Alex Flerchinger, F.N.P.	Adam T. Smith, D.O.
Cody Brown, PA-C	David E. Guth, M.D.	Jamie Straub, D.O.
Nathaniel Buffington, M.D.	R. Stephen Irwin, M.D.	Karyn Thornton, PA-C

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**PATIENT:**

**DOB:**

**DOS: 3/17/2011**

**MR#:**

Sincerely,

Alexandra Flerchinger, F.N.P.

Electronically approved/signed by Alexandra Flerchinger, F.N.P. on 3/18/2011 8:07:15 AM

AF/me

Date Dictated: 3/17/2011

Date Transcribed: 3/17/2011